

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

List of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A lock mechanism for latching a first object then coupling with a second object, comprising:

a case having a bolt assembly;

a first shackle being selectively coupled with the case and forming a closed boundary with the case to latch the first object at a latch position and unfastening the closed boundary at a release position, and being latched and anchored by the bolt assembly at the latch position; and

a second shackle movably mounted on the case at a first position to latch the second object and at a second position to release the latching of the second object, and being at the second position normally and driven by the first shackle to change the positions.

Claims 2-3 (Cancelled)

4. (Withdrawn) The lock mechanism of claim 1, wherein the first shackle is rigid.

5. (Withdrawn) The lock mechanism of claim 1, wherein the case further has an elastic element to provide a returning force to keep the second shackle at the second position normally.

6. (Withdrawn) The lock mechanism of claim 1, wherein the case has a cartridge trough to house the second object.

7. (Withdrawn) The lock mechanism of claim 1, wherein the case and the second object have respectively a mating coupling interface for coupling with each other by latching.

8. (Withdrawn) The lock mechanism of claim 1, wherein the case and the second object have respectively a mating coupling interface for coupling with each other by sliding.

9. (Withdrawn) The lock mechanism of claim 1, wherein the case further has a winch and an actuating member for controlling movements of the winch, the actuating member being harnessed by the second shackle at the first position.

10. (Currently Amended) A lock mechanism for latching a first object then coupling with a second object, comprising:

a case having a bolt assembly;

a first shackle being selectively coupled with the case and forming a closed boundary with the case to latch the first object at a latch position and unfastening the closed boundary at a release position, and being latched and anchored by the bolt assembly at the latch position;

a winch mounted within the case, said winch being locked by the first shackle; and

a second shackle movably mounted on the case at a first position to latch the second object and at a second position to release the latching of the second object, allowing the second object to be removed from the case, and being at the first position normally, and being movable when the first shackle is moved to the release position;

wherein when the first shackle is in a latch position, the second shackle is latched in the first position.

11. (Withdrawn) The lock mechanism of claim 10, wherein the second shackle is a rod which has a distal end forming a sloped surface.

Claim 12 (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The lock mechanism of claim 10, wherein the case has a retaining member driven by the first shackle such that the retaining member constrains the second shackle from moving when the first shackle is at the latch position, and the retaining member does not constrain the second shackle from moving when the first shackle is at the release position.

14. (Currently Amended) The lock mechanism of claim 13, wherein the case includes an elastic element which keeps the retaining member from constraining

the second shackle ~~normally~~ in the open position, and moves the retaining member to its ~~original~~ latched position when the first shackle releases the retaining member from moving constraint.

15. (Original) The lock mechanism of claim 13, wherein the case includes an actuating member for driving the second shackle to move to the latch position and the release position, and being harnessed by the retaining member without moving the second shackle when the first shackle is at the latch position.

16. (Original) The lock mechanism of claim 15, wherein the actuating member includes a guiding slot for connecting to one end of the second shackle.

17. (Withdrawn) The lock mechanism of claim 15, wherein the actuating member includes at least one linkage bar for connecting to the second shackle.

18. (Withdrawn) The lock mechanism of claim 15, wherein the actuating member has a wedge end, and the second shackle has a wedge section corresponding to the wedge end.

19. (Original) The lock mechanism of claim 15, wherein the case has a winch controlled by the actuating member.

20. (New) The lock mechanism of claim 10, wherein the first shackle is chosen from a group consisting of a flexible steel rope, a cable and a rigid member.

21. (New) The lock mechanism of claim 10, wherein the second object is a tool box.

22. (New) The lock mechanism of claim 10, wherein the first shackle is selectively removable from the case and said second object is selectively removable from the case.

23. (New) The lock mechanism of claim 10, wherein the case and the second object have respectively a mating coupling interface for coupling with each by latching.